

ETEXT ATTACHMENT

01/25/2002 08:12

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January 25, 2002

Ms. Angel L. Williamson
Senior Report Analyst
Reports Analysis Division
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20463

Identification Number: C00235739

Reference: October Monthly Report (9/1/01-9/30/01)

Dear Ms. Williamson:

This is in response to your letter to me dated January 18, 2002, and our previous telephone conversation about a similar entry appearing in RAILPAC's September Monthly Report. Included in Schedule B, Line 23 of our October report was an in-kind contribution for catering expenses in the amount of \$596 which was designated to the general election because our committee had already contributed the maximum of \$5,000 to Senator Baucus' campaign committee. At the time, I was unaware of the distinction made on in-kind contributions as to whether the contribution is for "long-term use" or "immediate use." Because our contribution was for catering expenses, it did not qualify for "long-term use," and therefore should not have been designated to the general election prior to the primary. This oversight was an honest mistake, not a purposeful violation of law; and I can guarantee that in the future the mistake will not happen again.

Yesterday afternoon, I spoke with Holly Garraputo who does the accounting for Senator Baucus' campaign committee. She will issue a refund check to BNSF RAILPAC in the amount of \$596. I will enter the refund in my database on the day I receive it, and it will be reported on the appropriate monthly FEC report.

Thank you for speaking with me earlier this week and helping me work toward a solution to the problem.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ann Tilson, Treasurer
BNSF RAILPAC
(signed electronically)
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